

REMARKS

The Examiner has required election of one of six inventions:

- I. Claims 1 and 25 directed to a combination of citric acid with an antibiotic;
- II. Claims 4-8 directed to adding citric acid to a platelet concentrate;
- III. Claims 9-13 directed to a method of adding citric acid to RBCs;
- IV. Claims 3, 17, and 23 drawn to a method of combining disinfectant organic dyes with citric acid;
- V. Claims 18 and 24 directed to a method of combining a plant polyphenol with citric acid; and
- VI. Claims 19-22 directed to combining iodine with citric acid.

Applicant elects Group I (claims 1 and 25) with traverse. The Examiner has concluded that all of the inventions are classified into the same class and subclass. The Examiner concludes that the claims require restriction because they have "different effects". Applicant respectfully traverses this statement. The title of this invention "Enhancers for Microbiological Disinfection" clearly states the effects of all the claimed processes; namely, the invention is the discovery that citric acid enhances the activity of a number of disinfecting agents. The proper restriction is Group I (Claims 1, 3, and 17-25) because all of those claims have the same effect—that is citrate enhances the operation of a disinfection compound and Group II (Claims 4-13) wherein citrate has a disinfection effect without the addition of a separate disinfecting agent.

For consideration as species Applicant identifies the antibiotics vancomycin and ampicillin. As is well known to those of skill in the art, vancomycin is a glycopeptide antibiotic while ampicillin is a beta-lactam related to penicillin. These two very different antibiotics were selected for the original tests because it was believed that positive results with these two very different molecules would

indicate the effectiveness of the invention with a large variety of antibiotic molecules. These specific antibiotics have now been listed in newly drafted dependent claims 26 and 27.

If for any reason the Examiner finds this paper not responsive or unclear, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (310) 734-5200 to discuss the steps necessary for correcting any problems and placing the application in condition for allowance.

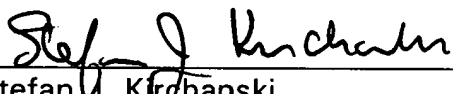
You are hereby authorized to charge any fees due and refund any surplus fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-2567.

Respectfully submitted,

REED SMITH CROSBY HEAFEY

Date: 26 March 2003

By:


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